

# EXHIBIT 5

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
WACO DIVISION**

**SBI CRYPTO CO., LTD.,**

*Plaintiff,*

v.

**WHINSTONE US, INC.,**

*Defendant.*

Civil Action No.: 6:23-cv-252-ADA-JCM

**PLAINTIFF SBI CRYPTO CO., LTD.’S OBJECTIONS AND  
ANSWERS TO DEFENDANT’S FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES**

To: Defendant Whinstone US, Inc., by and through its attorneys, Robert T. Slovak and Brandon C. Marx, GIBSON, FOLEY & LARDNER LLP, 2021 McKinney Avenue, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Plaintiff SBI Crypto Co., Ltd. (“SBIC”) serves these Objections and Answers to Defendant’s First Set of Interrogatories on Defendant Whinstone US, Inc. (“Whinstone”) pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 33.

**I.  
GENERAL OBJECTIONS**

The following objections shall apply to all of the interrogatories:

1. SBIC objects to the definitions portion of Defendant’s First Set of Interrogatories to the extent that it purports to impose obligations on SBIC that are not required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
2. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories insofar as they seek to impose upon SBIC any duty of supplementation beyond that imposed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e).
3. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories insofar as they may be construed as calling for information subject to a claim of privilege, including, without limitation, the attorney work-product doctrine set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(3).

4. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories insofar as they might be construed as calling for information relating to experts beyond the scope of discovery provided for in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(4).
5. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories insofar as they may be construed as calling for documents or information subject to the attorney-client privilege.
6. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories insofar as they require SBIC to marshal all its evidence.
7. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories to the extent they are overbroad, vague, ambiguous, unduly burdensome, or fail to clearly specify the information sought.
8. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories to the extent they seek documents or information relating to documents that are not relevant to the subject matter of the pending action or are not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in this case.
9. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they can be interpreted to seek information regarding SBIC's representatives, agents, or employees on the ground that such information is not relevant to the subject matter of the pending action nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence in this case.
10. SBIC has made reasonable efforts to answer the following Interrogatories as SBIC understands and interprets them. If SBIC subsequently assert an interpretation which differs from that of SBIC, SBIC reserves the right to supplement these answers and objections accordingly.
11. SBIC objects to the Interrogatories to the extent they might be interpreted as requiring SBIC to concede the relevance, materiality, or admissibility of the information sought by the Interrogatories. The answers set forth below are subject to, without waiving and they are not intended to waive:
  - a. All questions or objections as to competency, relevancy, materiality, privilege, or admissibility as evidence, or for any other purpose, of any of the documents referred to or answers given herein, or the subject matter thereof, in any subsequent proceeding or trial in this or any other action;
  - b. The right to object to other discovery proceedings involving or related to the subject matter of the interrogatory to which these answers are directed; and
  - c. The right at any time to revise, correct, add to or clarify any of the answers, or any of them, all of which are given subject to correction of any such omissions or errors.
12. These objections applicable to all interrogatories are incorporated by reference in each of the answers made below, as though fully set forth therein, which answers

are made without waiver of any of the foregoing objections applicable to all interrogatories.

## **II.**

### **OBJECTIONS AND ANSWERS TO INTERROGATORIES**

**INTERROGATORY NO. 1:** Identify each PERSON that was involved in the negotiation of the HOSTING AGREEMENTS.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 1 because the term “involved in” is vague and ambiguous.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to this Interrogatory as follows: Carson Smith (SBIC), Jonathan Tanemori (SBIC), Aroosh Thillainathan (Northern Data), and Chad Harris (Whinstone).

**INTERROGATORY NO. 2:** For each breach of contract that YOU allege in the DEMAND LETTER, identify the date YOU first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 2 because the terms “first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach” are vague and ambiguous and because, to the extent that the Interrogatory requires SBIC to interpret a term of the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement, the Interrogatory calls for one or more legal conclusions. To the extent that “first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach” refers to when SBIC became aware of each circumstance that gave rise to each breach, SBIC objects because the Interrogatory is overbroad and unduly burdensome and because it seeks information which is not relevant nor calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Subject to the foregoing objections, and to the extent that “first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach” means when SBIC had sufficient knowledge of all circumstances necessary to give rise to a breach of the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement, SBIC responds to this Interrogatory as follows: SBIC became aware of the circumstances giving rise to the breaches described in the Demand Letter on June 10, 2021.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 3:** For each act of fraud that YOU allege in the DEMAND LETTER, identify the date YOU first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each act.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 3 because it seeks information which is not relevant nor calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, because it requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence, and because the terms “first

became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each act” are vague and ambiguous.

Subject to the foregoing objections, SBIC responds to this Interrogatory as follows: SBIC became aware of the misrepresentations related to the environmental conditions in the Rockdale Facility on June 10, 2021. SBIC also became aware of misrepresentations related to the Rockdale Hosting Service Agreement shortly after Riot Blockchain, Inc. filed its Form 8-K with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on May 26, 2021.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 4:** For each breach of contract that YOU allege in the COMPLAINT, identify the date YOU first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 4 because the terms “first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach” are vague and ambiguous and because, to the extent that the Interrogatory requires SBIC to interpret a term of the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement, the Interrogatory calls for one or more legal conclusions. To the extent that “first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach” refers to when SBIC became aware of each circumstance that gave rise to each breach, SBIC objects because the Interrogatory is overbroad and unduly burdensome and because it seeks information which is not relevant nor calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Subject to the foregoing objections, and to the extent that “first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each breach” means when SBIC had sufficient knowledge of all circumstances necessary to give rise to a breach of the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement, SBIC responds to this Interrogatory as follows: SBIC became aware of the circumstances giving rise to the breaches alleged in the Complaint on June 10, 2021.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 5:** For each act of fraud that YOU allege in the COMPLAINT, identify the date YOU first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each act.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 5 because it seeks information which is not relevant nor calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, because it requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence, and because the terms “first became aware of the circumstances giving rise to each act” are vague and ambiguous.

Subject to the foregoing objections, SBIC responds to this Interrogatory as follows: SBIC became aware of the misrepresentations related to the environmental conditions in the Rockdale Facility on June 10, 2021. SBIC also became aware of misrepresentations related to the Rockdale Hosting Service Agreement shortly after Riot Blockchain, Inc. filed its Form 8-K with the United

States Securities and Exchange Commission on May 26, 2021.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 6:** For each claim YOU assert in the COMPLAINT, identify the amount of damages that YOU seek to recover and include the calculation thereof.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 6 because it is duplicative in that it seeks information that SBIC has already provided in its Initial Disclosures and because the request is premature. SBIC will provide timely provide calculations of its damages consistent with the discovery deadlines in this case, including expert reports.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to this Interrogatory as follows: First, SBIC contends that, as a proximate result of Whinstone's breaches of the Hosting Services Agreement, SBIC suffered benefit-of-the-bargain damages, including lost profits, damages related to the cost of damaged equipment, and/or as out-of-pocket costs in reliance on the Parties' Hosting Services Agreement. SBIC is entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys' fees for prevailing in its breach of contract claim against Whinstone pursuant to Chapter 38 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code and the indemnity provision found in ¶ 8.3 of the Hosting Service Agreement. Second, SBIC contends that, as a proximate result of Whinstone's intentional misrepresentations upon which SBIC relied, SBIC suffered benefit-of-the-bargain damages, in excess of \$15,000,000, damages related to the cost of damaged equipment in excess of \$16,000,000 as well as out-of-pocket costs in reliance on Whinstone's fraudulent misrepresentations. Additionally, Whinstone's fraudulent acts and omissions were committed knowingly, intentionally, willfully, maliciously, or with wanton and gross negligence for which SBIC should be awarded exemplary damages. SBIC is entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys' fees against Whinstone pursuant to the indemnity provision provided in ¶ 8.3 of the Hosting Service Agreement. Third, SBIC contends that, as a proximate result of Whinstone's failure to disclose certain material facts to SBIC, SBIC suffered benefit-of-the-bargain damages, including lost profits in excess of \$15,000,000, damages related to the cost of damaged equipment in excess of \$16,000,000, as well as other out-of-pocket costs in reliance on Whinstone's fraudulent misrepresentations. Whinstone's fraudulent acts and omissions were committed knowingly, intentionally, willfully, maliciously, or with wanton and gross negligence for which SBIC should be awarded exemplary damages. SBIC is entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys' fees against Whinstone pursuant to the indemnity provision provided in ¶ 8.3 of the Hosting Service Agreement. SBIC's damages will be supported by calculations provided by its designated experts as well as SBIC's representatives and personnel. SBIC reserves the right to supplement these Disclosures in accordance with the Parties' Scheduling Order and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 7:** Identify each PERSON at WHINSTONE with whom YOU communicated regarding YOUR mining equipment at the facility.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 7 because the terms “at Whinstone” and “communicated” is vague and ambiguous.

Subject to the foregoing objections, SBIC responds to this Interrogatory as follows: Chad Harris, Ashton Harris, Lyle Theriot, Sara Draper, David Schatz, Luis Diaz, Lauren Matherne, Heath Davidson, and Anthony Brown.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 8:** Identify the amount of power that YOU contend WHINSTONE was obligated to provide to YOU under the OCTOBER HOSTING AGREEMENT.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 8 because it seeks information that may be more easily obtained from other sources, specifically the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement and SBIC’s Amended Complaint.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds as follows: Per the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement, Whinstone promised to provide at least 5 megawatts by October 31, 2019, 50 megawatts by December 15, 2019, and further represented, as an inducement for entering into the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement, that it had “secured for commercial access up to one (1) gigawatt of aggregated electricity that can be delivered to the Data Center, of which a portion of that may be incrementally offered to [SBIC].”

**INTERROGATORY NO. 9:** Identify the certifications and inspections that YOU allege in the COMPLAINT that WHINSTONE was required to obtain.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 9 because the Interrogatory requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence, because the Interrogatory is premature as discovery is ongoing, and because Whinstone has equal, if not better, access to the information requested.

Subject to the foregoing objection, Section 2.1.5 of the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement provides that “Whinstone represents and warrants that building or other permits, city inspection, or certification is not required with regard to providing services under this Agreement.” In its Amended Complaint, SBIC alleges that “certain certifications and inspections were, in fact, required to turn on power.” Otherwise, discovery is ongoing and SBIC reserves the right to supplement and amend this answer pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 10:** Identify each attempt YOU made to resell YOUR mining equipment used at the FACILITY, including by listing the party to who resale was offered, the manner of each communication offering to the resale, the price for each offer of resale, and the response to each offer of resale.



**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 10 because the terms “resell,” “resale,” and “offered” are vague and ambiguous.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: SBIC discussed the sale of its Avalon A10 miners with Ray Redding of Smith & Associates in late July 2021, however nothing came of the discussions. SBIC had other informal discussions regarding the sale of its mining equipment, including with Kaboomracks, but those discussions also did not result in a sale.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 11:** Describe the factual bases for why YOU contend that WHINSTONE’s payments to YOU of approximately \$7 million in July 2021 and \$237 thousand in February 2022 did not settle all claims concerning the HOSTING AGREEMENTS.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 11 because the term “settle” is vague and ambiguous and because the Interrogatory requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: Payments Whinstone made to SBIC following the termination of the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement constituted the return of un-applied portions SBIC’s one-time prepayment and security deposit. The parties did not have a legitimate dispute that SBIC was entitled to repayment under the express terms of the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement. The parties did not enter into a settlement agreement and did not otherwise specifically or intentionally agree, with plain, definite, or certain language, to discharge “all claims” concerning the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement. Furthermore, the amounts described in this Interrogatory do not constitute a full satisfaction of SBIC’s entire claim against Whinstone.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 12:** As alleged in paragraph 12 of the COMPLAINT, identify each alleged misrepresentation YOU contend Whinstone made, including by listing the date the misrepresentation was made, the method of communication, where the misrepresentation occurred, and the identity of the person making the misrepresentation.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 12 because the terms “paragraph 12” and “each alleged misrepresentation” are vague and ambiguous and because the Interrogatory requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence. Paragraph 12 of SBIC’s Amended Complaint does not independently identify alleged misrepresentations. To the extent that “paragraph 12” and “each alleged misrepresentation” means the misrepresentations alleged in both paragraphs 12 and 13, SBIC objects to the Interrogatory because it seeks, in part, information that may be more easily obtained from other sources, specifically paragraphs 12 and 13 of SBIC’s Amended Complaint.



Subject to the foregoing objections, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: SBIC alleges in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Amended Complaint that Whinstone's representations and warranties concerning (1) power capacity, (2) permits, and (3) operating conditions were false because Whinstone misled SBIC into believing it held the requisite building permits and power contracts to perform as promised and then concealed the substandard conditions at its facility. Whinstone's power capacity misrepresentations were made during conversations between representatives of SBIC and Aroosh Thillainathan near the Rockdale Facility during September 2019 while representatives of SBIC visited the Rockdale Facility and in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself. Whinstone's permits misrepresentations were made in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself and in verbal conversations with Aroosh Thillainathan and Chad Harris in the first half of 2020. In August 2020, Chad Harris tried to deflect blame away from the conditions of the Rockdale Facility by accusing Canaan of providing poorly manufactured equipment. Whinstone's other operating conditions misrepresentations were made during calls between representatives of SBIC and Ashton Harris. Discovery is ongoing and SBIC reserves the right to supplement and amend this answer pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 13:** For each alleged misrepresentation identified in response to Interrogatory No. 13, identify each act that YOU contend constitutes reliance upon the same.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to this Interrogatory because it contains a misleading description of the law as it applies to SBIC's claims, because the term "act" is vague and ambiguous, and because the Interrogatory requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence.

Subject to the foregoing objections, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: To the extent that "act" includes decisions not to act in reliance upon Whinstone's misrepresentations, SBIC's decisions to enter into the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement and not to remove its equipment from the Rockdale Facility constitute reliance on the misrepresentations alleged in paragraph 12 of SBIC's Amended Complaint.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 14:** As alleged in paragraph 22 of the COMPLAINT, identify each alleged misrepresentation YOU contend Whinstone made, including by listing the date the misrepresentation was made, the method of communication, where the misrepresentation occurred, and the identity of the person making the misrepresentation.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 14 because the terms "paragraph 12" and "each alleged misrepresentation" are vague and ambiguous and because the Interrogatory requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence. Paragraph 22 of SBIC's Amended Complaint does not independently identify alleged misrepresentations.

To the extent that “paragraph 22” and “each alleged misrepresentation” means the one misrepresentation alleged in both paragraphs 22 and 23, SBIC objects to the Interrogatory because it seeks, in part, information that may be more easily obtained from other sources, specifically paragraphs 22 and 23 of SBIC’s Amended Complaint.

Subject to the foregoing objections, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: SBIC alleges in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Amended Complaint that Whinstone’s representation that it had secured for commercial access up to one gigawatt of aggregated electricity that can be delivered to the Data Center was false at the time it was made because Whinstone had not, in fact, secured commercial access to that amount of electricity. This misrepresentation was made during conversations between representatives of SBIC and Arrosh Thillainathan near the Rockdale Facility during the fall of 2019 while representatives of SBIC visited the Rockdale Facility and in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 15:** As alleged in paragraph 28 of the COMPLAINT, identify each alleged misrepresentation YOU contend Whinstone made, including by listing the date the misrepresentation was made, the method of communication, where the misrepresentation occurred, and the identity of the person making the misrepresentation.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 15 because it is unreasonably cumulative and duplicative of Interrogatory No. 12 and because it seeks, in part, information that may be more easily obtained from other sources, specifically paragraph 28 of SBIC’s Amended Complaint.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: SBIC alleges in paragraph 28 of the Amended Complaint that Whinstone representations that additional building permits, city inspections, and certifications were not required with regard to providing services under the Hosting Service Agreement were false. This misrepresentation was made in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 16:** As alleged in paragraph 33 of the COMPLAINT, identify all YOUR attempts “to open communication channels” between WHINSTONE and CANAAN.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 16 because it requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence. Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: Carson Smith of SBIC added Ashton Harris of Whinston to a WeChat group with representatives of Canaan in October 2020. The parties discussed issues with SBIC’s mining equipment and the Rockdale Facility between October and December. Screen captures of that WeChat exchange will be produced as a mutually agreeable time and place.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 17:** As alleged in paragraph 33 of the COMPLAINT, identify all YOUR attempts “to open communication channels” between WHINSTONE and CANAAN.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to this Interrogatory because it is duplicative of Interrogatory No. 16.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 18:** As alleged in paragraph 34 of the COMPLAINT, identify all facts to support YOUR contention that WHINSTONE refused CANAAN’s request for physical access to the FACILITY.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 16 because it requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence. Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: Despite Canaan’s desire to physically access the Rockdale Facility, and after Representatives of Canaan and Ashton Harris had verbal discussions, Whinstone did not grant Canaan access to inspect SBIC’s mining machines and the environmental conditions of the Rockdale Facility.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 19:** As alleged in paragraph 47 of the COMPLAINT, identify all facts to support YOUR contention that YOU spend months looking to reuse YOUR equipment at another facility.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 19 because the term “spend” is a vague and ambiguous.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: Once Whinstone terminated its agreement with SBIC, SBIC placed its mining machines in storage, initially hoping to reuse the machines in a Russian facility where SBIC was then operating identical mining machines. However, the war in Ukraine forced SBIC to change its plans regarding the Russian mining facility.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 20:** As alleged in paragraph 48 of the COMPLAINT, identify each alleged misrepresentation and/or omission YOU contend Whinstone made, including by listing the date the misrepresentation and/or omission was made, the method of communication, where the misrepresentation and/or omission occurred, and the identity of the person making the misrepresentation and/or omission.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to Interrogatory No. 20 because it is unreasonably cumulative and duplicative of Interrogatory Nos. 12, 14, and 15, because the Interrogatory requires SBIC to marshal all of its evidence, and because it seeks, in part, information that may be more easily obtained from other sources, specifically paragraph 48 of SBIC’s Amended Complaint.

Subject to the foregoing objections, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as

follows: SBIC alleges in paragraph 48 of the Amended Complaint that Whinstone made the following misrepresentations:

- (1) misrepresenting that the datacenter was well designed, and conformed to industry standards after operations began (while actively concealing the truth of the same); these misrepresentations were made during conversations between representatives of SBIC and Arrosh Thillainathan near the Rockdale Facility during September 2019 while representatives of SBIC visited the Rockdale Facility and in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself;
- (2) misrepresentations that the datacenter and racks were built and configured to contractual requirements (actively concealing the truth of the same); these misrepresentations were made in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself;
- (3) misrepresenting in the Hosting Service Agreement that building or other permits, city inspections, or certifications were not required with regard to providing services pursuant to the parties' contract; these misrepresentations were made in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself and in verbal conversations with Aroosh Thillainathan and Chad Harris in the first half of 2020;
- (4) misrepresenting that the facility was not experiencing problems related to overheating or excessive dust (deliberately concealing harmful environmental conditions at the facility which inevitably caused suboptimal performance SBIC equipment and physical damage to the same); these misrepresentations were made in verbal conversations with Chad Harris during 2020 and during SBIC's site visit in June 2021;
- (5) misrepresenting in the Hosting Service Agreement that one (1) gigawatt of power was available at its Rockdale site and that 50 megawatts of power had been secured on October 24, 2019; these misrepresentations were made during conversations between representatives of SBIC and Arrosh Thillainathan near the Rockdale Facility during September 2019 while representatives of SBIC visited the Rockdale Facility and in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself; and
- (6) misrepresenting in 2019 and 2020 the availability of power after delays despite not securing power until May 2020; these misrepresentations were made during conversations between representatives of SBIC and Arrosh Thillainathan near the Rockdale Facility during September 2019 while representatives of SBIC visited the Rockdale Facility and in the Rockdale Hosting Services Agreement itself.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 21:** As alleged in paragraph 49(10) of the COMPLAINT, identify each "industry expert[] [that] observed Whinstone's datacenter" that will "attest that Whinstone has a poor datacenter design and poor management of the dirt and airflow inside the datacenter," including by listing the identity of the expert, the date the expert observed the Facility, and the nature of the expert's opinion.

**ANSWER:** SBIC objects to this Interrogatory to the extent that it seeks to require SBIC to designate Expert Witnesses prior to the deadline established by the parties' Proposed Scheduling Order.

Subject to the foregoing objection, SBIC responds to the Interrogatory as follows: Nick Foster of Kaboomracks. Because discovery is ongoing, SBIC reserves the right to supplement these answers and objections accordingly.

**INTERROGATORY NO. 22:** As alleged in paragraph 35 of the COMPLAINT, identify each "Covid travel restriction[]" between "approximately February 2020 to the first half of 2021" that prevented "SBIC's employees" from "freely travel[ing] to and from Japan."

**ANSWER:** The relevant COVID-19 policies include the following: COVID-01-Basic Policy on Countermeasures against COVID-19-20200422; COVID-02-New measures to strengthen border control (10)-20210318; COVID-03-New measures to strengthen border control (12)-20210512. SBIC will produce documents responsive to this Interrogatory at a mutually agreeable time and place.

Respectfully submitted,

**WINSTEAD PC**

By: /s/ Joshua M. Sandler

Joshua M. Sandler

Texas Bar No. 24053680

jsandler@winstead.com

Cory Johnson

Texas Bar No. 24046162

cjohnson@winstead.com

Matthew Hines

Texas Bar No. 24120892

mhines@winstead.com

D. Blake Wilson

Texas Bar No. 24090711

bwilson@winstead.com

**WINSTEAD PC**

2728 N. Harwood Street, Suite 500

Dallas, Texas 75201

Telephone: (214) 745-5103

Facsimile: (214) 745-5390

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF**

**SBI CRYPTO CO. LTD**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that, on October 5, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via electronic mail to all counsel of record.

/s/ Joshua M. Sandler

Joshua M. Sandler

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
WACO DIVISION**

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**WHINSTONE US, INC.,**

*Defendant.*

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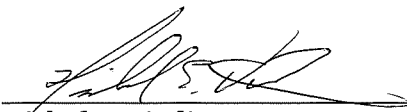
**VERIFICATION**

I, Nicholas Vitalis, declare and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct:

1. I am the CEO and Representative Director of SBI Crypto Co., LTD ("SBIC"), the Plaintiff in the above-styled lawsuit, and duly authorized to make this declaration on behalf of SBIC.

2. I have read SBIC's Objections and Answers to Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories and the facts stated therein are true and correct based on my personal knowledge or information obtained from other persons.

Executed on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas Vitalis